Listing of the Claims

1-15.   (Cancelled)

16.   (Previously Presented) A method of identifying non real-time data transmitted through a communications network, the method comprising:

receiving at a data processor data from a data source of a plurality of data sources;

formatting the data to include a data source identifier corresponding to the data source and a system identifier corresponding to the data processor;

transmitting the formatted data to a client site via the communications network;

determining the operational status of the data source;

generating a data source status signal including the data source identifier, the data source status signal being generated based on the operational status of the data source; and

transmitting the data source status signal to the client site via the communications network.

17.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the step of generating a data source status signal includes determining whether the data source is operating normally.

18.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising receiving a heartbeat signal from the data source.

19.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising:

generating a system heartbeat signal including the system identifier; and

transmitting the system heartbeat signal at a predetermined interval to the client site.

20.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the system heartbeat signal includes a data source heartbeat signal received from the data source.

21-29. (Cancelled)

30.   (Previously Presented) A data collection system comprising:

a transmitter in communication with a communications network; and

a data processor in communication with the transmitter, the data processor performing

steps comprising:

> receiving data from a data source of a plurality of data sources;
>
> formatting the data to include a data source identifier corresponding to the
> data source and a system identifier corresponding to the data processor;
>
> transmitting via the transmitter the formatted data to a client site via the
> communications network;
>
> determining the operational status of the data source;
>
> generating a data source status signal including the data source identifier,
> the data source status signal being generated based on the operational status of the
> data source; and
>
> transmitting via the transmitter the data source status signal to the client
> site via the communications network.

31.   (Previously Presented) The data collection system of claim 30 further comprising
a status code generator generating a data source status signal in response to a control signal from
the data processor, wherein the step of generating a data source status signal includes
automatically generating the control signal for the status code generator in response to changes in
the operating status of said data source.

32.   (Previously Presented) The data collection system of claim 30, wherein the step of
generating a data source status signal includes determining whether the data source is operating
normally.

33.   (Previously Presented) The data collection system of claim 30, wherein the data processor further performs the step of receiving a heartbeat signal from the data source.

34.   (Previously Presented) The data collection system of claim 30 further comprising a heartbeat generator for generating a system heartbeat signal including the system identifier and transmitting via the transmitter the system heartbeat signal at a predetermined interval to the client site via the communications network.

35.   (Previously Presented) The data collection system of claim 34 wherein the system heartbeat signal includes a data source heartbeat signal received from the data source.

36.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-readable instructions for ~~performing~~ causing a computer to perform steps comprising:

receiving at a data processor data from a data source of a plurality of data sources;

formatting the data to include a data source identifier corresponding to the data source and a system identifier corresponding to the data processor;

transmitting the formatted data to a client site via a communications network;

determining the operational status of the data source;

generating a data source status signal including the data source identifier, the data source status signal being generated based on the operational status of the data source; and

transmitting the data source status signal to the client site via the communications network.

37.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 36 wherein the step of generating a data source status signal includes determining whether the data source is operating normally.

38.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 36, the computer-readable instructions for performing the further step comprising receiving a heartbeat signal from the data source.

39.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 36, the computer-readable instructions for performing further steps comprising:

    generating a system heartbeat signal including the system identifier; and

    transmitting the system heartbeat signal at a predetermined interval to the client site.

40.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 39, wherein the system heartbeat signal includes a data source heartbeat signal received from the data source.

41-58. (Cancelled)